1	2	3	4
		22. Bidhannagar	1
		23. Bahirsarbamangala	1
		24. Burdwan	1
		25. Telinipara	1
		26. Midnapore	1
		27. Kharagpur	1
		28. Mogra	1
		29. Pandua	
		30. Deshbandhunagar	1
		31. Haldia	1
		32. Darjeeling	1
		33. Malda	1
		34. Dinajpur	1
		35. Coochbehar	1
		36. Jalpaiguri	1
		Total	43

* Includes Dadra & Nagar Haveli ** Includes Lakshadweep *** Includes Pondicherry

Broadband subscribers in the country

1361. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is unlikely to cross even one million broadband connection mark against the target of three million connections by the end of December 2005;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps taken to meet the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Broadband Policy, 2004 envisages 3 million broadband subscribers by end of year 2005 while the number of Broadband subscribers at the end of 2005 was about 0.88 million. Insufficient demand for broadband services is the main reason for slow uptake of Broadband services.

Government has recently announced reduction in License fee for NLD/ILD services from 1 st January, 2006. This is expected to reduce cost of Broadband services and is expected to result in increase in Broadband subscribers.